

# Forgiveness

A Scottish Physician was noted not only for his skill, but also for his faith and godliness. After his death, when his books were examined, several accounts had written across them in red ink – “FORGIVEN....too poor to pay.”

His wife, who survived him, was not a believer and was of a very different disposition. She said, “The accounts must be paid.” She initiated legal action against the debtors, demanding all the money owed, together with the full amount of interest.

It came to Court. The Judge asked her, “Is this your husband’s handwriting in red ink?” “Yes”, she said, “it is.” “Then”, said the Judge, “there is not a Court in the land that can obtain the money where he has written, “Forgiven.”

In the Bible, our sins are called “debts” (Luke 11:4), because, on account of them, we owe to the Justice of God “a debt of satisfaction” or “punishment” (Romans 6:23); but these bad debts of ours none of us can possibly pay, for we have no way of answering for

sins, and besides, our debts are continually increasing.

If demand should be made for payment, we shall surely drown in our debts and utterly and eternally perish. “If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?” (Psalm 130:3,4).

Yet God is merciful towards insolvent debtors. He has provided his beloved Son to render satisfaction on our behalf. Under the demanding Law, Christ suffered, bled and died, in our place and for our sake. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Although a believer’s sins are all written down in God’s ledger, Christ has written across the list, in his own red blood, the word “FORGIVEN.” It matters not who accuses us, “there is now... no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).